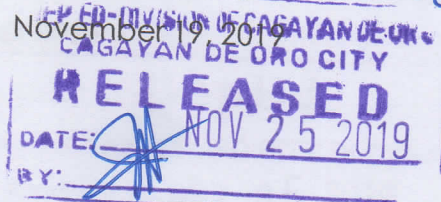




Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Division of Cagayan de Oro  
Fr. William Masterson Avenue, Upper Balulang  
Cagayan de Oro City



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MEMORANDUM

RESPONDENT FOR THE RESEARCH ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE  
BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC WITH THE TAG-NAMED,  
PROJECT GOLDEN ENCOUNTER

TO: **SYLVIO C. CARCILLER**  
School Head  
Carmen NHS

**JULIETA N. DOLERO**  
ALS Coordinator

1. With reference to the letter request from Antonio N. Torralba, PhD, Research Director of the University of Asia and the Pacific re: Research on marriage and family life, you are hereby directed to send your students, teachers and parents to attend the conduct of the said research study on **December 10, 2019** at Carmen NHS, Conference Room on the schedules below:

Participants	No. of participants	Time
Students (Carmen NHS)	40	1:00PM-2:30PM
Students (ALS)	30	1:00PM-2:30PM
Teachers	35	2:30PM-4:00PM
Parents	35	2:30PM-4:00PM

2. Further, may we request the use of microphone, speakers and LCD projector during the conduct of the aforesaid activity.
3. Compliance of this Memorandum is desired.

**CHERRY MAE L. LIMBACO**  
Schools Division Superintendent

Enclosure:

None

Reference:

None

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subject

Research on marriage and family life

SGOD/ LPM



Dec. 10, 2019

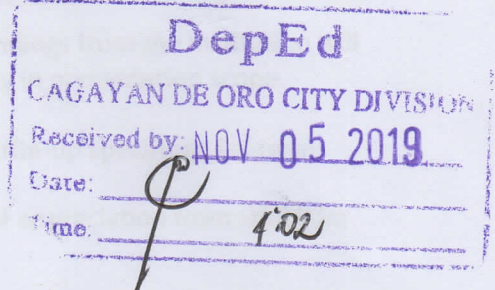


# UA&P

## UNIVERSITY OF ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

5 November 2019

**CHERRY MAE L. LIMBACO**  
Schools Division Superintendent  
Department of Education, Region X  
Cagayan de Oro City, Mis. Or.



Dear Ms. Limbaco,

Warmest greetings from the University of Asia and the Pacific, and may the subject of this letter be a stimulus for even stronger partnership in social research and development programs on family life and youth character education!

The Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines, in celebration of its Jubilee Year, is spearheading a research on marriage and family life, tag-named, *Project Golden Encounter*. The ultimate aim of the research is to develop research-based intervention programs to foster family stability and enrichment, and consequently, the more integral development of children, particularly, adolescents. Settings and venues for the programs could include schools and universities; faith-based organizations; local government units; and the business entities. The immediate objective is to identify the many factors that bring about marital and family challenges and, consequently, serious challenges to youth development. Approaches and content would vary according to the sector being addressed.

Some seven to nine areas are targeted for the study: City of San Fernando, Balanga City, Pasig City, Masbate City, Palawan Province, Tagbilaran City, Iloilo City, Cagayan de Oro City, and Davao City ... or their peripheral towns. In each city, we would like to have groups of respondents from the following possible sectors: parents, teachers, and high school students from public or private high schools; college students; and students from the Alternative Learning System.

**May we request Cagayan de Oro City or neighboring municipalities be made a respondent source for this study, for whose fieldwork can be scheduled at a convenient period from October 2019 to January 2020, preferably in the second or third week of November or other days we can agree on?**

This would imply the following:

1. The designation of a class of high school students, and separately, their parents or another group of parents, to a one to two-hour session, at a mutually convenient time, for a two-part session, comprising for each sector, respectively:
  - a. A short talk forum on the **Joys and Travails of Parenting (and Teaching) Adolescents**, for parents; and **Personal Excellence and Leadership Exemplar**, for students. These two



themes have been delivered in forums for appreciative parents, teachers, and students in the corresponding audience.

- b. The research proper, which may include one or a combination of an administered survey questionnaire; or a group discussion; or metacard process; or individual interviews on the sides.

2. All findings will be treated in strictest confidence, and the findings from the institution will be given only to the school ... the study itself will be inter-city in presentation scope.
3. You will get a collated write-up of the research and a data write-up specific to Palawan;
4. For its worth, the institutions involved will get a certificate of appreciation from UA&P for agreeing to be a source of respondents for the research.

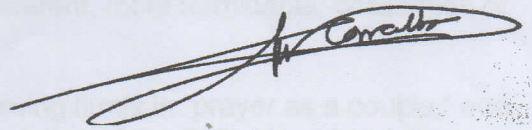
The sessions will be conducted by the undersigned, and data privacy shall be strictly observed.

We are sending you the framework of the study for your perusal.

With extreme gratitude and anticipation for your positive response! May our local representative have an opportunity to arrange matters with your designated person?

Warmest regards to all your undertakings!

Sincerely yours,



**ANTONIO N. TORRALBA, PhD**  
Research Director  
University Fellow and Trustee

ROSEMARY SCHOOL

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881-4700 Registrar

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Ty



**PROJECT GOLDEN ENCOUNTER**  
**(A Pre-Study Presentation of the Research on Marriage and Family Life**  
**on the Jubilee Year Celebration of Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines)**  
Crowne Hotel, Saturday, 5 October 2019

*(This serves as a heads-up paper for the support panelists of the pre-study presentation of 5 October 2019. The keynote address presentation accompanying this paper will be a 20-minute presentation of the wherewithal of the research, intended for the general audience of the Marriage Encounter seminar participants and enthusiasts. This MEFP project is in partnership with the University of Asia and the Pacific through the Professorial Chair on Family and Youth Education and the Institute for Marriage and Family Development of the Center for Research and Communication.)*

## **A. INTRODUCTION**

It would seem undeniable that the family is in some deep crisis, and consequently, so is the over-all well-being and lifestyle of the youth. The Church leaders, both of the Magisterium and the local churches, have expressed worry, and so have the schools and universities, the national and local governments, as well as the corporate world of business and civil society.

But paraphrasing the first line of Charles Dicken's *A Tale of Two Cities*, "It is the worst of times, (but) it (too) is the best of times." Indeed, deep down among believers of the Catholic faith and unbelievers alike, there is a sense of the grace of restoring and creating a heritage in response to today's sexualized ambience, unmindfulness of the marriage institution, and the other amoral perspectives of the times.

Times change, but human nature does not ... and neither does the nature and powerful role of the family in nation building, even in the face of different, more formidable, challenges of the times.

In the 50 years of shaping minds and hearts, of believing firmly in "prayer as a couple," and later, "sharing of feelings," Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines has been impeccably convinced that marital spirituality and exchange of feelings between husbands and wives, complementing the personal struggle to be good couples, has indeed produced GOOD COUPLES, and has yielded GOOD YOUTH. The exceptions regardless of numbers have become irrelevant, in the face of more than one thousand people attending today's Jubilee Celebration of MEFP from 80 communities.

Fr. Gabriel Calvo in 1952 perhaps never imagined that 67 years down the line, the close to 500 years of Philippine Christianization had become a potent source of rich harvest of Marriage Encounter faithfuls, now facing the challenge of responding, little by little and effectively, to the daunting challenges posed today, here and now, by the environment surrounding the Filipino family and the Filipino youth.

One of the many channels to help ensure effectiveness in the response to these challenges is by looking into marriage and family life and addressing the needs through development programs. The MEFP has decided to entrust part of this response to the University of Asia and the Pacific. Like MEFP, we at UA&P aspire to look into and talk about the perennial message of the gospel of marital spirituality and fidelity to today's millennials and Generation Z, without in any way giving up on the fast aging baby boomers and Generation X. At bottomline, this endeavor goes beyond research, onto communication for the ambitious

goal of transforming Philippine society through collective, but more significantly, individual interventions. Development seminars, workshops, conferences, symposia, and other collective means are good, and should indeed be based on some solid research, but in the end, what counts is the individual: personal challenges surrounded by particular circumstances. Every research statistic counts, especially in combination with many others, but in the end, it is the individual couple that awaits the presence and blessings of Marriage Encounter: whether clergy or a layman; an MEFP trustee or an ordinary seminar participant; a seasoned moderator or a starting enthusiast of Marriage Encounter.

I beg your indulgence and invite you to watch this video, which to my mind, succinctly showcases the sterling character that MEFP wishes to introduce to the bond of family in commissioning this research and development endeavor.

## **B. A CHURCH BACKGROUND**

The Church has not been amiss in recognizing and addressing the changing needs of the family.

In October 2014 Pope Francis convened the *Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops* on topics related to the family and evangelization.

This Assembly was deliberately followed by an *Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops* in October 2015 on the same theme, marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Synod of Bishops.

From the early plans, the work of the Synod of Bishops was to take place in two stages, forming a single organic unity, with the Extraordinary Assembly serving as preparatory step for the Ordinary Assembly. At the Extraordinary Assembly, the bishops defined the current state of the family and challenges that faced it; at the Ordinary Assembly, the bishops formulated pastoral guidelines to respond to those challenges. Church groups were consulted on the documents of the Extraordinary Assembly, which in turn served to jumpstart the discussion of the Ordinary Assembly.

The theme of the Ordinary Assembly was "*The vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world*", and carried the objective of continuing the work of the Extraordinary Assembly by "reflecting further on the points discussed in order to formulate appropriate guidelines" for the pastoral care of the person and the family.

The two assemblies yielded the much talked about, ***Amoris Laetitia***, *Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation of the Holy Father Francis on Love in the Family*, © 2016 Libreria Editrice Paulines Publishing House, 2016.

Two more papal documents excellently complement the 2016 exhortation on related themes: *Christus Vivit* (Loreto, 25 March 2019) and *Male and Female He Created Them* (Rome, 10 June 2019), both of which, with *Amoris Laetitia*, are must-reads for clergy and lay people alike.



### C. ONTO THE ASPIRATION OF MEFP

MEFP, in celebration of its Jubilee Year, has expressed interest in the study of perceptions, understanding, motivations, attitudes, dispositions, and resulting structures of the Filipino family. The immediate objective posed by Marriage Encounter was, "Why does there seem to be a high level of civil marriages; cohabitation; unforeseen separation of parents; actual or virtual separation of parents for various reasons; and virtual divorce?"

On the other hand, among the youth, whose lifestyle and practices do eventually, in adulthood or even earlier, lead to or result from the situations above, questions of sexual attitudes, dispositions, perceptions, and lifestyle can be posed.

While one research does not necessarily lead to resolution of the challenges and problems on family and family life, a better understanding of mindset of a number of Filipinos of various ages could help development educators to better address the young and the adults in their language, with the papal sense of "accompaniment" serving perhaps as lynchpin of the efforts of the Church, faith-based organizations, schools and universities, and even local governments that are sufficiently enlightened to go into the roots of the apparently deteriorating family life situation in the country.

### D. PROJECT PROFILE

#### Nature of the Project

- Research on the profile (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, mindsets, dispositions) of the Filipino Family that contributes to the relationship and marital structures that the country currently experiences
- Crafting of research-based education and skeletal development interventions for the preservation, strengthening, and promotion of the Filipino Family

The recipients, as well as envisioned transmission channels of the proposed interventions would include catalysts of family life: faith-based institutions or agencies: dioceses and parishes; Catholic schools and universities; religious communities; Catholic formation centers; lay and secular organizations, and other entities with existing organizations and mechanisms for development education. Roughly, these sectors are to be divided into a) Schools, Colleges, and Universities; b) Religious and Spiritual Groups; and treated as one, c) Civic Groups, d) Governments, and e) Private Businesses.

The ultimate recipients of the interventions would include private and public schools, colleges, and universities; the workplace; government, both national and local; civic organizations; and other entities with family and family life preservation and promotion as advocacy

#### Aim, Goal, and Objectives

The aim of the study is a clearer appreciation and understanding of the *perceived* reasons and rationale for the various situations of marriage and family life in the country. The focus is the Filipino family without regard for religion and culture. This would in turn help family-based or family-directed organizations to craft a program to address the challenges of family and family life, including preparations for marriage and parenting.

The goal of the study is considerations for development programs, including content, methodology and approaches, resource persons, and assessment as well as evaluation tools that can help family-based and family-directed organizations address the challenges more efficiently, effectively, long-term, and sustainably.

The main objective of the study is to inquire into the mindset, perceptions, attitudes, dispositions, and lifestyle of adults and youth related to marriage and family life, including matters of sexual and sexuality practices, spousal communication, socio-economic considerations, parenting, and home management.

#### **E. THE STUDY SETTINGS AND SECTORS**

The settings or sources of primary data would be five urban capital cities, including peripheral rural towns, whose regions would have high youth densities, and two island provinces. There may be changes in the roster depending on dispositions of the intended venues.

NCR:	National Capital Region
Region III:	City of San Fernando (Pampanga)
	Balanga City (Bataan)
Region IVA	Province of Palawan
Region V:	Island Province of Masbate and Palawan
Region VI:	Iloilo City (Iloilo)
Region VII:	Tagbilaran City or Tacloban City (Bohol)
Region X:	Cagayan de Oro City (Misamis Oriental)
Region XI:	Davao City (Davao del Sur)

Each respondent site will feature responses from five sectors, involving a combination of high school students, parents, teachers:

- a. A public high school, for students, Grades 9 to 12, ages 14 to 18
- b. A private high school, for students, ages 14 to 18
- c. A university (freshmen or sophomores), for students, ages 19 up
- d. An Alternative Learning System (ALS), for students, broad age range
- e. Parent and teacher groups from the above settings and sectors.

The choice of settings and sectors is intended to provide a somewhat broad range of ages and socio-economic situations.

#### **F. THE PRIMARY DATA TARGETED**

The basic questions to be answered through the survey, group discussion (with parents and teachers), and face-to-face interviews (with church and civil authorities) would include, arising mainly from questions posed by MEFP itself:

1. What factors are considered in the decision to get married?
2. What are the couples' perceptions of and attitudes toward marriage?
3. What are the targeted or desired ages (by the parents, by the children) for courtship; for relationship; for staying together separate from parents; for staying together with the parents of one? for engagement; for marriage ... by the parents? By the children?
4. What are the reasons for decision to live in? For decisions to marry civilly? For Catholics deciding to convert and marry outside of the Church?

5. What are the plans, if any, for future marriage or living in couples?
6. For couples, whether married or living in, what are the considerations in deciding how many children to have? How do couples manage to limit or regulate their children ... what methods are used ... what are the considerations in deciding the method to be used?
7. What are the parenting and child education styles, directions, considerations in relation to: education in sex or sexuality; education for marriage and family life; friends; courtship; relationships; engagements; marriage preparation; marital life.

The basic questions to be answered through the survey instruments, group discussion, and face-to-face interviews with students would include the following themes:

#### MAJOR (FOR CORRELATION WITH FAMILY SITUATION)

1. Control Data
2. The Family: Situation and Aspirations
3. Friends and Relations
4. Other sensitive questions
5. Moral Standards
6. Beliefs on the Family

#### MINOR (FOR SHEER APPRECIATION OF YOUTH)

1. Beliefs Related to Relationship and Sexuality
2. Influence of Persons and Institutions
3. Aspirations
4. Practices
5. Personal Activities

The sources of primary data would include:

- a. Varied types of questionnaire instruments personally administered with preliminaries (i.e., talk forum and games) to ensure confidence and seriousness in accomplishing them;
- b. Small group discussion or interviews with parents, teachers, religious and civic entities, the pertinent local government agencies; and
- c. Personal or face-to-face interviews with judgment sampled youth and adults.

THIS STUDY shall not attempt to do analytics but would depend on respondent profiling by setting and sector, considering the intended sample size and the limitation of settings to seven at the most. Suffice it to say that the profiles are expected to be sufficient in formulating corresponding variations in criteria and rubrics for development programs



## **G. THE SECONDARY DATA TARGETED (AS INDICATED BY MEFP)**

The general categories of data would include:

- a. Population densities: youth lifestyle, marriages
- b. Family Demographics
- c. Family Structure ("marriage" arrangements, cohabitation, reproduction issues)
- d. Family Patterns (parenting styles especially conversations)

The particular questions would include:

1. Within close periphery to the city, what are considered rural towns?
2. What are the youth densities of these cities and their regions of location?
3. What is the population of each political unit? How many families are registered? What is the average family size? How many people are married? In Church? Civilly?
4. For married couples ... for registered unmarried couples (live-in) ... for couples married in church ... for couples married civilly ... if possible, by urban or rural:
  - a. What are the couples' educational background profile?
  - b. What are the families' socio-economic class profile?
  - c. What are the couples' age bracket?
5. What is the separation rate? What role does parental consent play in the decisions made?
6. And from elsewhere, what are the findings and trends abroad, arising from studies conducted with the University of Asia and the Pacific as partner, and research-based articles from Mercatornet, a 2007 partner of the University?

The sources of secondary information data would include:

- a. The Philippine Statistics Authority
- b. The Department of Social Welfare and Development
- c. The Office of the Diocese or Archdiocese Chancery
- d. The CBCP Commission on Family and Life: national and local
- e. The Office of the City Mayor (family and youth offices)
- f. Other national agencies and local chapters

## **H. THE SCHEDULE DESIDERATA**

### **September- October**

Organization of research team  
Crafting of calendar of research  
Pre-testing of survey and other instruments  
Drafting letters for sampled institutions & persons  
Crafting the MEFP Jubilee Year Celebration paper  
Collating secondary research and data (through November)

### **October**

Balanga City  
National Capital Region

## **November**

Palawan Province  
Cagayan de Oro City  
City of San Fernando

## **December**

Iloilo City  
Masbate City

## **January**

Davao City  
Tacloban City

## **December to February 2020**

Tabulation and processing of data

## **February to March**

Writing of research paper draft for comments by MEFP

- Major (Part 1): Database on Filipino marriage and family lifestyle and structures
- Major (Part 2): Working Paper on the roots (past), situation (present) and wings (future) of the Filipino family: lifestyle, life patterns, priorities, perspectives, aspirations, for delivery in various forums
- Auxiliary: Development interventions on stability and stronger family life for educators and catalysts of family

## **April**

Submission to Marriage Encounter for go-over and suggestions

## **End May 2020**

Revision and printing of final paper for submission to MEFP

## **I. REPORT STRUCTURE**

Chapter 1: The study framework  
Chapter 2: A review of international and national literature on family life and youth lifestyle, with two videos made by the study team then  
Chapter 3: The study methodology notes  
Chapter 4: The qualitative results of the study  
Chapter 5: Study-based criteria and praxis of materials crafting  
Annexes